

Minutes

Western Region Council Meeting

May 15, 2008
Southern Utah University
Cedar City, Utah

Attendance: - Karen Alvey, Liz Barker, Mike Beacco, Lois Bulloch, Joe Christopher, Ivan Cowley, Cody Gower, Cindy Greathouse, Lloyd Loveless, Kristie McMullin, Larry Pearson, Wayne Shamo, Roene Shaw, LaVoy Starley, Leon Stewart, Jan Thompson.

Youth Council: Fran Cannard, Pat Pead, Lynnette Robinson, Steve Schofield, Colleen Tucker.

DWS Staff: - Ann Barnson, Jolene Bundy, Lorri Economy, Mary Excell, Kathy Leydsman, Gail Nelson Stokes,

Guests: Darlene Wabel

Minutes: Jolene Bundy

Educational Session

Welcome – Joe Christopher

Joe welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Darlene Wabel. She is the CTE Central Region Pathways Coordinator at the Snow College Richfield Campus. She gave a presentation on the Utah High School to College and Career and Technical Pathways and passed out information for the pathways that have been set up. A good discussion followed concerning the pathways from high school to college as well as transfers from one college or university to another. She talked about how the pathways work and the benefits and advantage of them.

Agenda Item: Breaking into group sessions

The Youth Council was excused to have their meeting. The rest stayed to discuss the Industry Sectors and discuss the next steps that need to be taken in the Automotive Industry, the Health Care Industry, Construction, and Basic Education sectors.

LUNCH was served.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Welcome – Joe Christopher

Joe welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

Minutes

The Minutes from the last meeting were presented. Leon Stewart had a change to the minutes. He said under the Industry Sector Deliverables it said “LaVoy said the CTE’s

are working on.....” Leon said CTE should be changed to ATC’s. And again in the last bullet of that section, Jan’s question about CTE’s should be changed to ATC’s in 2 places. Leon clarified the difference saying when talking about the institution it is the ATC. When talking about the program pathway it is CTE. With those changes being made, Leon made a motion to approve the minutes. LaVoy seconded the motion. They were approved with the change.

Council Business: Joe Christopher

Joe said we have several new members of the council and Youth Council attending.

They were introduced:

- * Cody Gower from Auto Trim Design in St. George
- * Lloyd Loveless from the Delta Technical Center. He is taking over the Applied Technology position held by LaVoy Starley who has moved to a Private Employer position.
- * Colleen Tucker is a new member of the Youth Council and is the new Job Corp representative for our area. She is going to be housed in St. George.
- * Pat Pead is also a new member of the Youth Council. She is from the Juvenile Justice Center in St. George.

In Other business: Dale Peel has been our Co-Chair for the past 2 years. His term will be ending in June so a new Co-Chair is needed from the 6 county area. Ivan nominated Larry Pearson but Larry declined saying he was unable to do it at this time. There weren’t any others there who could do it. It was decided to keep Dale on temporarily until someone else can take over the position.

Agenda Item: Region Update – Jan Thompson

Jan asked to be excused following her update to attend the graduation of 9 individuals from DWS graduating from the Certified Public Managers Series. It’s an intense training that some of our managers and supervisors take. This is the first time a graduation has been held in the southern area of the state. Jan will represent our region at the meeting and will be there to congratulate some of those from our region graduating. Jan said Fran Cannard, Manager of the St. George EC, will also need to be excused as she is one of those graduating.

- * Jan gave an update on the eREP program. She said the Western Region will begin using eREP within 7 months. It goes on-line January 1, 2009. It is an \$80 Million dollar project that replaces PACMAS which is 20 years old. It will encompass 3 state agencies which besides DWS includes Child and Family Services and Human Resources. Jan said when the Economy takes a down turn, DWS sees a rise in the request for services and more customers brings a higher number of case loads for the counselors. The employees not only have higher case loads and they have over 60 different programs to learn and understand, but now they are asked to learn a completely new computer system. She knows she is asking a lot from the employees but they will do all they can to preserve the great customer service they strive for.
- * Jan said the region is working on a couple of areas that are not quite at the level we would like. One of the measures looked at in food stamps is whether the counselors accurately deny customers services. Last year Western region denial

accuracy was at 100%. This year there have been a couple of errors. We don't want anyone to be denied if they are eligible and the offices are working hard to make sure those who are eligible receive the services they need.

- * There was a question for Jan concerning the new eREP program. They asked if all the offices will go on line all at once. Jan said Provo goes on line first in October. Western Region is the next group to go on line the first of January. Then the Ogden and Salt Lake area will go on last. Joe asked if it would reduce customers coming into the office. Jan said part of the impact will be less traffic. That's not the reason for the new program but will be one of the effects of it. The purpose of the new program is to make sure customers have more access to all available services in more areas.
- * Joe asked about customer stress levels in these economic times. Jan said our service providers are very customer service oriented and interested in providing a respectful and dignified service which helps with the customers stress level. We have challenges and these are hard times so if anyone has ideas on how to help us and relieve the stresses, let us know.
- * Jan mentioned the news report of an employee in Salt Lake who was arrested for Identity Theft. Jan said it has been very hard on all the employees. They work very hard to keep customer information confidential and safe. They have taken this personal; feeling like this has hurt each employee's integrity. DWS has taken this very serious and this individual will be prosecuted. There were 40 customers who had their Identity stolen. DWS has hired a contractor to help the 40 customers work through all the difficulties to solve the problems this caused.
- * Jan said the Executive council requested Economic information for our area. She passed out copies of the Labor market Information for our region and said Lecia does a great job with this information. The information is available on line on our web site. There is information on the population, labor force, targeted industries, historical information on the counties, new employers coming in and much more. This led to a discussion on building permit declines, the increase in those filing for unemployment, the number of homes up for closure, and the forecast for the rest of the year and into 2009 expecting it will be into 2009 before it starts to turn back up.

Agenda Item: State Council Update – Joe Christopher/Lorri Economy

Joe said they met at State council on April 10th in Provo.

- * They talked about Utah's economic forecast.
- * They went over the industry sectors that were discussed in the committee meetings this morning. In the meeting packet is the reports from the State council on what's happening on the priority items they have set, and job survey information.
- * Lorri said the State changed the priority level for eligibility for Youth Services from 11 to 15. This makes it harder for customers to qualify for services when the budget is low. It helps insure that those most in need are the ones that will get the services. When the budget is higher we can lower the priority range so more can qualify.

- * Lorri said the DOL took back some of our WIA moneys in the rescission. Utah has already paid that back. We were happy to find we actually still have some money left in training funds. We think we will have fewer funds for next year.
- * Lorri said the other change was changing the amount of funds for training allowed per customer from \$8000 to \$4000. That won't affect the customers very much because the average spent per customer was only \$1700 to \$2000. The incumbent worker program still has funds available this year but they may not have them for next year. DWS is expecting around a 30% cut in WIA dollars.
- * Lorri said there is information from the State Council in the meeting information packet. Some things are: legislation that DWS proposed and supported, funding request information, job vacancy studies, etc.
- * Lorri passed out information from the State council called "Training Provider Approval Process Talking Points". She said in the past the Western Region council has been responsible for approving the training providers in our region prior to it going to the State Council. Now, the pathway has applications go to Tara Conley on the state level before coming to the region. They first had to meet the state criteria through the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce. Then it went to Tara to check and make sure they had met all the requirements then it went to the region councils for approval before it went to the State Council for approval. Some of the region councils have asked that they be removed from that pathway since it really is just a vote of approval or support. They can't deny it at that point. Lorri was asking the council if they still wanted to voice their approval prior to the State council just like they did before.
 - o Ann said our vendor committee really took it seriously to make sure our training dollars were well spent. Now that the policy has changed the vendors have to go through the department of licensing as well as the Department of Commerce. All of that is done prior to turning in their application to Tara. Tara just makes sure they have met all the criteria. If they have we really can't deny them at this point. All we can do as a council is a vote to show our support.
 - o Karen said she still liked the idea of the Region Council looking at each one in our region. She said the regions did a lot of research and had insight on the region level that the state may not have. The regions knew more about the back grounds of a local business than the state. Joe had the same concerns and felt we have a better feel for those applying from our region than those at the state level do. He also asked about the bonds necessary.
 - o Lorri said our options as a council are that we can still be involved by requesting the information still come to our council so we can give a vote of support. It won't have an effect on the State level but we can have it in the record if we supported them or not. Or we can request the information to let us know who the new training providers are in our region. The vote to approve only happens at the State Council.
 - o The discussions felt the Region council needed to know where our training dollars are going. The council can still vote to give a recommendation to approve or deny the provider prior to the State Council voting.

- Karen made a motion to have this council review the applications for training providers from our region to make a recommendation of support or denial before they went before the State Council for a vote. LaVoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item: Western Region Worksheet – Joe Christopher / Lorri Economy

Lorri wanted everyone to know that all of our council information, minutes, roster, etc. is found on-line on our web site jobs.utah.gov. Lorri showed everyone where to find it on the web site along with information about the state and region councils. The document they wanted to discuss now is also found on-line.

- * Joe said the document for discussion is the planning guidance worksheet. It is in the meeting information packet. Joe asked if there were any changes or recommendations for this. It has the 4 industry sectors we are targeting. Joe noticed it only has 3 sectors in the collaborative section. Lorri said it should be 4 and she would fix that and add the 4th sector, Education. Joe said these will be our priorities for now and probably for some time to come.
- * Lorri said the desired outcomes are what the council will be using as our goals for the next year or two. This document is the result of the brain storming that was done in the last council meeting. Joe said the desired outcomes are the critical part and everyone's help is needed.
- * Joe mentioned the need for a private industry co-chair from 6 County. He said we need more private industry involvement and participation. We need names of members who will be willing to serve and will commit to attend the meetings. We have several members that we need to replace. The Council is critical and we can have a big effect on a number of things.
- * Ann said an example is the importance of the Youth council. Today most of the time was spent on the incentive plan which has a big effect on the youth programs.
- * Joe said the purpose of this council is to vote and give direction to DWS. Like the old saying goes, if we don't vote here we don't have the right to complain. So, please help us get some members who will be willing to attend and vote and make a difference.

Agenda Item: Youth Council Report – Mike Beacco

- * Mike said the Youth Council spent most of it's time discussing the incentive plan. They had some Federal input in the incentives. The Feds felt we needed to pay for *achievements* rather than *maintaining*. Because of this, several of the incentives were changed to reflect the guidelines from the Federal government.
- * Mike said the council also talked about the recent monitoring and auditing of the Western Region. In the first monitoring the score was 81. The target hoped for was 88. The counselors fixed the problems. Then the final score was 97%.
- * The Youth Council voted on having DWS continue as the service provider. They discussed how DWS came to be the provider. They voted and approved DWS remaining as the provider for the next year.
- * Ann said there have been some changes in the DWS youth counselors over youth services. There were previously 2 Youth Service counselors. Now there are 5 counselors in the western region.

- * Ann passed out the budget report. Mike said it has been difficult to get out of school youth in the programs and complete the necessary test. Ann said most of the youth that come in are below grade level. It is necessary to make sure they have some improvement.
- * The Reality Town/Store was also discussed. The dates for the remaining Reality Towns were given and council members were encouraged to attend.
- * Joe asked who could bid for the Youth Services Provider. Ann said anyone can bid. There are certain criteria and services they have to be able to provide. In the past we have not had anyone bid for it. Because there were not any bids, Winfield Kids was approached about providing the service. After their service was discontinued, there was no one else to do it. It became necessary for DWS to take over as service provider. There is another year before the contract period of 5 years is up. The RFP for Youth Services will be going out shortly for bids for the services. If any of the council members know anyone who might be interested in this, please contact Ann.

Other business: There was no other business.

Kristie McMullin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leon Stewart seconded it. The meeting was adjourned until August 21st in Richfield.

Action Items May 17, 2007			
Item #	Person responsible	Action Item	Date to be completed
1.	Lorri	Add the 4 th sector to the Western Region Worksheet in the collaborative section.	8/221/08

Conclusions/Decisions	
1.	The minutes from the February 15 th meeting were approved after making some changes.
2.	They council voted to have this council review the applications for training providers from our region to make a recommendation of support or denial before they went before the State Council for a vote
3.	
4.	
